

HOME LIFE IN MEXICO.

PECULIAR ADOBE HOUSE OF
MOORISH ARCHITECTURE.

Glassless Windows and Carpetless
Floors—Mexican Ideas of
Woman's Sphere.

(Special Correspondence of the RECORD-UNION.)

Mexico, January 14, 1887.

In the architecture and furnishing of Mexican houses there is no such variety as in most other countries—one case of the better class being almost an exact counterpart of thousands of others. Since there is scarcely any middle class between patricians and parvenus, the contrast between the abodes of the poor and those of upper-tendons is great indeed. The former are the merest *jacals* (pronounced *hock-alles*), hovels in which a respectable jackal would disdain to live—in the lowlands made of wild-cane stalks, thatched with dried grass or Spanish dagger leaves, or adobe huts in the higher altitudes, where the nights are chilly. In fact the universal building material of all classes except the Indians of the *tierra calienta* is adobe—but that is in the construction of paths, houses, and the like, from a sun-baked mud of the parvenus as well as "jacks" differs from the aristocratic Mexican.

No other kind of houses would answer as well in this climate as those that prevail among the upper classes, for the walls of solid clay, from three to eight feet thick, keep out heat and cold, and are cool and comfortable within, despite blazing moon, chilly nights, and the dampness of the long rainy season. The flat roofs are also of adobe, laid thick above ponderous beams, with gutters around the edge and queer little water-spouts projecting, often in the form of gargoyles.

THE OUTER WALLS.

Are generally tinted pale blue, yellow, pink or gray—with "dado" decorations of darker color, and often with elaborate stucco work, and glassless windows and doors. The adobe foundation is thickly plastered with a fine cement which resembles polished marble, and in time renders it almost indestructible, coat after coat being added as the years go by. Occasionally, as in Monterey and other northern cities, one sees houses with adobe houses, these painted all over in regular patterns, precisely like printed calico, while in the south—notably in Puebla, where tiles are manufactured—many *casa*s are a perfect mosaic of Dutch and China plaques, more Moorish than Gothic.

Of course the largest cities few houses are more than one story in height, the vast majority of homes having neither cellar nor "up stairs." The cases of well-to-do Mexicans are of vast extent, as compared to the average houses in the United States, the low walls being built up in the center and rising around the garden, leaving in the center an unroofed court, or *patio*, with which everyone of the numberless rooms communicates. In those rare cases where the house is of two, or even three stories, the apartments of each floor open upon a corridor, which surrounds this inner court—here the corridor belt may say with awnings, hammocks and trailing vines, and the court beautiful with fountains, trees and flowers.

The idea of strict seclusion for respectable females—transmitted, no doubt, through the Moorish blood of the *coupledas*—is still so strong in Mexico that the higher the social rank the more strictly does family life secluded from the public view; and the more difficult it is for foreigners to gain access to the interior. All the windows are securely barred, like those of prisons, having stout wooden poles or perpendicular rods run lengthwise across the outer door-panes into the casement, and thence to the rooms of the casa—is kept carefully locked and bolted, the cheerless blank walls presented to the street telling no tales of family life within. The traveler fresh from the United States, accustomed to the pretty front gardens or green lawns and flower beds of the homes of the North, is apt to rail against these Southern customs, which baffle his curiosity and defy his inquisitiveness at every turn. But, beyond a doubt, these ways are wiser for the *Mexicanos*. The free-and-easy customs which work well enough among even-tempered people of colder climates, would be ruinous for this hot-blooded, jealous and turbulent race.

MEXICAN WINDOWS.

Are peculiar inasmuch as they reach almost from floor to ceiling, are wide as church doors, and the walls being so thick—afford ample room for placing chairs within their sight recesses, wherein the family are wont to congregate during the cool of the day. Comparatively few cases luxuriate in the grandeur of the *casas*—the vast majority dispense with it altogether. The windows have heavy inside shutters—not furnished with movable slats like those to which Northerners are accustomed, but of solid wood, opening in the middle, both ways. Like the door of a pawn shop, these are usually wavy, and the peculiar construction, the only means by which a degree of privacy may be secured when the household machinery is not on exhibition, is to close the lower half of the shutters; the inquisitive outsiders, with curiosity sharpened by the evident attempt to conceal something, freely climb over and gaze curiously on the interior. Mexican men seem to entertain the idea that windows were made to look out of, as well as to look in at, and it is a matter of daily occurrence for men, women and children of the *gente*, including peddlers and professional beggars, to congregate outside the houses and stand calmly staring in at us by day.

not much indulged in, except perhaps an occasional strip or rug. There is

A NATIVE CARPET.

Made from the worn fiber of the maguey, much resembling hemp—which is painted by hand, usually a rose-pink ground with dashes of green, purple and yellow. It is as durable as iron, and suitable to save delicate colors, are added. There is also a primitive and substantial matting of Indian manufacture, made of shredded palm-leaves, colored and braided into squares of varying sizes. These are called *petates*, and are cool, clean and suitable to the climate. But really these tiled or cemented floors—especially the latter, which are made of a porous material, though sharp edges are too beautiful to be hidden by any stiff-figured covering. Bare floors are far more appropriate in this insect-breeding latitude, besides being more healthful and cleanly. It must be confessed, however, that they are not without disadvantages. So much saltwater enters into the composition of the soil, that the houses are built on stilts, and owing to daily tides, is seldom dry. Mexican brooms are primitive contrivances—a bunch of shredded palm-leaves, or broom-corn tied together without a handle; mops there are none without a handle, neither are there any without a long wooden handle. How ever hot the days we have generally chilly nights, and one feels like going to bed in one's boots, rather than put bare feet upon floors that are as cold as tomorrows or the charity of the world. Every Mexican house has its

SALA DE RECIBO.

(Reception room) of more or less magnificence. It may not contain much furniture, but is a room of shining cement or dark wood, and comfortable, yet attractive, generally of immense proportion, being long and narrow like a town hall. The aesthetic beauty of its softly-tinted halls, painted with fresco outlines, or the natural grayish plasters left unadorned, contrasted with the floor of shining cement or dark wood, and comfortable, yet attractive, generally of immense proportion, being long and narrow like a town hall. The aesthetic beauty of its softly-tinted halls, painted with fresco outlines, or the natural grayish plasters left unadorned, contrasted with the floor of shining cement or dark wood, and comfortable, yet attractive, generally of immense proportion, being long and narrow like a town hall. 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[For the RECORD-UNION.]

STRENGTH.

I dare you to make me sad,
I've found that life is hopeful and fair;
You cannot drag me to any despair,
But some reprieve can be had.

Of my friends there none remain?
The world is wide, there are more to find;
There are few left, who are left behind,
If I've not myself to blame.

My name is hung to the dust?
Then like the flower seed hid from view,
If it cannot rise and blossom anew,
'Tis well; and let it rest.

My face as it now appears
The world is wide, there are more to find. Farmers
Those favors of youth do I hold in store
The wisdom of gathered years.

And love, you can take that too,
But my heart's pure life you cannot take,
Nor will I let you have my sweetest smile,
Nor the warmth that will come again.

'Tis health and rest that are glad?
Then I will be glad till I'm lost,
But never till the tide is crossed
To the land where none are said.

L. L. SHUEY.

THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT

"We are getting dreadfully behindhand, Bess," said Jack Avery, solemnly, "and unless we can find a way out of our difficulties, we'll soon be going over the hill to the poorhouse."

Jack sighed dismaly, and leaning back in his arm-chair, drew down the corners of his mouth in a way that rendered him the picture of despair.

"Is it so bad that?" exclaimed his pretty, rosy-cheeked wife, sympathetically. "We will begin to save at once. I ought to have thought of it long ago," said the little woman, regretfully.

"It's all very well to talk about saving, but how is it to be done when our income is barely sufficient to procure necessities?" said Jack, trying to force a smile.

"We will have to modify our views concerning 'necessaries.' There are ever so many things that we might manage to dispense with," said Bess, earnestly. "In the first place, you ought to give up smoking so many cigars and instead of buying dinner, make up your mind to take a nice lunch."

"No, Bess!" interrupted Jack, impatiently. "I must have cigars, and the plan of carrying a cold lunch just like a common hot-carrier, isn't to be thought of?"

Jack's honest face assumed a decidedly forlorn expression, as he thrust both hands into his pockets, and paced the floor with rapid strides.

"It was only a suggestion, Jack," said Bess, placing her hand upon her husband's shoulder. "You are not obliged to give up smoking, and I must admit that a cold lunch would be likely to cause a dyspepsia. You shall do as you think best, dear, and instead of advising you to practice economy, I will see what I can do toward lessening the family expenses."

"Of course, you must not do without things that are really necessary," said Jack, considerably mollified. "In fact," he continued, "I would be sorry to feel that you are at liberty to do exactly what you please with every dollar that I give you."

"I understand you perfectly, Jack. I will not be at all backward about spending money for what we really need," said Bess, with a smile.

"I will take you to the theater again, this evening, and make evident by her parcels she left the scene." "Leave me, one week ago I would have bought it," she murmured, as she dropped two silver dollars and a fifty cent piece into the red bag.

"Three dollars and thirty-five cents saved in one afternoon! I never would have believed it," said our little financier, as she turned toward home.

As he approached the store where he was in the habit of buying his daily supply of cigars, he slackened his gait, and mutely quivered.

"I've half a mind to do without cigars for a day. Let—me—see—that will be thirty cents saved. I'll do it!" Jack immediately quickened his pace and passed the door.

"The first time in three years that I have passed the store with a smile in," said Jack, as he dug out three silver dollars from his vest pocket. "If each penny turns out to be a seed, thirty cents ought to bring out a pretty good crop at the end of the year!"

As the hours passed away, Jack was conscious of feeling very disconsolate without his daily cigar.

"I'll have a good square meal to make up for it," he muttered, on his way to a neighboring restaurant.

Upon his arrival, he seated himself at a small table, and picking up a bill of fare, glanced over the list of culinary successes and failures named thereon. Jack hesitated a moment, then, turning to the waiter, who stood at a respectful distance, he said:

"Simmons, bring me a bowl of vegetable soup, a few slices of bread, and a saucer of rice pudding."

"All right, said Bess: "Wonder what's come over Master Avery? He reckons the tip-top dinner, and you proin' too much for his digestion," he muttered, with a grin, as he delivered the order.

"Who would have thought that I could enjoy anything like this?" said Jack, as he swallowed the last spoonful of pudding. "On the way out of the restaurant he placed fifty cents upon the cashier's desk, and received thirty cents change."

"Here you go to keep the cigar money from getting homesick," said Jack, as he dropped the amount into the side pocket.

"On the way home, I'll stop for a cigar." He was on the point of accomplishing his salvation with the words "Come into Burt's and have something to drink," when a voice seemed to whisper:

"Stop, Jack! you can't afford to spend thirty cents for fancy drinks."

"Come old fellow, what will you have?" asked his friend, as he turned to enter Burt's saloon.

"Not anything, thank you, I've sworn off," replied Jack, laughing.

"Ah, I see you are a Benedict now. Well, I won't urge you—in fact, I've got up my mind that the 'treat' custom has burned more than one man's pocket. Suppose we join hands in the resolve never to touch intoxicating liquors ourselves, or invite any one to do the same?"

"I am with you there, Harvey," exclaimed Jack, grasping the hand of his friend and shaking it heartily. "Come up to the house some evening," he said, as they parted; "Bess will be very glad to see you."

"Thanks, I shall certainly do so—so soon!"

Bess has always been opposed to strong drink; wonder what she would say if she knew of my resolve," said Jack, as he slipped his cigar and a few coins into the side pocket. "I reckon it will go hard to do this sort of thing every day, but I have made up my mind to it, and no one has ever accused Jack Avery of shrinking from a challenge."

"Get one of Burt's fine cigars. You'll feel like a new man," suggested the Evil Genius.

"Don't do it Jack!" whispered another voice. "One cigar will not suffice; you'll want another directly. If you break your resolution you will despise yourself for being so weak."

"My throat feels parched. Oh! for a glass of Burt's cool, sparkling beer," murmured Jack. At this instant the door opened and a boyish voice called out:

"Here's yer ice-cold lemonade, two cents a glass!"

"I'll take a glass if it's the pure stuff," said Jack.

"I'll get it for you, sir; mother and me'll make it, sir! I takes it round to the gentlemen in the office," said the boy, filling a glass and handing it to Jack.

"Not so bad," said the latter, as he quaffed the cooling draught. "If I had gone over to Burt's, he must have known I would not have stopped, and he has freed me up wonderfully!" Eighteen cents found their way into the side pocket.

On the way home Jack was accosted by a boorish.

"Have a shine, sir? only ten cents," said the boy, persuasively.

"Go ahead, and I'll pay for it. I guess I won't stop," said Jack, moving on. "I'll take exactly ten minutes to polish my boots after I reach home. Ten cents saved for the genuine article."

he said, with a laugh. "I've saved one dollar and eighteen cents to-day. It is easy enough to see where the money goes."

For a moment Jack looked serious; then a very happy expression crossed his countenance.

"I want to word about my plans; dear old Bess shall puzzle her brain trying to save a penny here and a dollar there. The idea of saving in the way I have decided upon is a good one."

Jack smiled complacently, for he felt that the future held something worth struggling for.

"Dear Jack!" murmured Mrs. Avery after her husband had closed the door behind him, "how vexed he felt at my suggestion. I am quite sure that what I have said to him will not go in one ear and out at the other, he has been married long enough to know that women are not women dictators unless she can impress her husband with the idea that he is the originator of all plans for their mutual benefit. I feel satisfied that Jack will begin to economize but the dear fellow must feel that no one is compelling him to do it."

A low musical laugh fell from Mrs. Avery's lips, the next moment she looked very serious.

"Do you know that we had a cozy home of our own; these apartments are nice and comfortable, but not at all homelike. Out of fifteen hundred a year we ought to be able to save at least five hundred dollars. I have a plan to do this, but I don't know what to do with all the money placed at my disposal. I mean to strengthen his belief in me as a financier," concluded the little woman.

"I do wish that we had a copy of our marriage record," said Mrs. Avery, "and unless we can find a way out of our difficulties, we'll soon be going over the hill to the poorhouse."

Jack sighed dismaly, and leaning back in his arm-chair, drew down the corners of his mouth in a way that rendered him the picture of despair.

"Is it so bad that?" exclaimed his pretty, rosy-cheeked wife, sympathetically. "We will begin to save at once. I ought to have thought of it long ago," said the little woman, regretfully.

"It's all very well to talk about saving, but how is it to be done when our income is barely sufficient to procure necessities?" said Jack, trying to force a smile.

"We will have to modify our views concerning 'necessaries.' There are ever so many things that we might manage to dispense with," said Bess, earnestly. "In the first place, you ought to give up smoking so many cigars and instead of buying dinner, make up your mind to take a nice lunch."

"No, Bess!" interrupted Jack, impatiently. "I must have cigars, and the plan of carrying a cold lunch just like a common hot-carrier, isn't to be thought of?"

Jack's honest face assumed a decidedly forlorn expression, as he thrust both hands into his pockets, and paced the floor with rapid strides.

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NEWS OF THE MORNING.

EARLY.—A large mass of the upper-table rock overlooking the Niagara falls has fallen, causing much damage. Ex-Albionian McQuade's motion for a stay of proceedings in his case has been denied.... It is said that General Sherman has written a racy letter to Blaine.... A tie up on the Broadway (N. Y.) railroad is threatened.... From 700 to 800 cases of measles were weekly in New York during December.... Dr. George declares the latter is in no way responsible for George's utterances in his behalf.... Lorillard's tobacco operatives struck yesterday.... Four murderers were hanged at Fort Smith, Ark., yesterday.... The steamer Thesis is to start soon for Arctic waters or Alaska. Grinnell has already reached from the coal handling station.... John Swigert, suddenly choked to death in Louisville on Wednesday without apparent cause.... The Senate yesterday adopted the conference report on the interstate commerce bill, by a vote of 15 to 43.... Silver in New York, 102.

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A GLANCE AT SOME ESSAYISTS OPPOSED TO HENRY GEORGE'S UNTERMINED THEORIES.

It is quite frequently urged by a respected contemporary that Henry George is right "in the main," but that in some things he goes too far. To just what particular point he proceeds correctly before he begins to pass beyond the boundary of right and reason, has not been clearly stated by this friend of Mr. George's doctrines. Of one thing, however, we are assured by this same authority, nor is there any reason to doubt it, that Mr. George was not the originator of his theory. Precisely as true is it that neither was the lamented journalist to whom it is credited. It is an idea that had its birth far back of the generation in which that intelligence was manifest. The doctrine that all value is the creation of labor is very old. La Fontaine preached that it was the source of all wealth. Hesiod, the Greek poet, compared "idlers" to "the drones which eat up the fruit of the bees' labor." But, as De Laveleye has said, "labor is man's action on nature, to the end to satisfy his wants, and value is a relation between the physical properties of things on the one hand, and men's needs on the other. The value of things is not determined by the labor employed in their production, for many things of the same value cost very unequal amounts of labor."

* * * The real basis of a thing's value is its utility—the uses to which it can be put.

Mr. George advances the old idea that the State should possess all land, applying the rents thereof to the wants of the needy. As he says: "Nature gives wealth to labor, and to nothing but labor. There is and can be no article of wealth but what labor has gained by making it, or searching for it, out of the raw material which the Creator has given us to draw from." If this is true, then, as Mr. Scudder, a recent essayist, puts it, private property in land is unjustifiable, and so the doctrine "leads down to chaos."

Give in once the nationalization of the land, and one must then follow the footstep of the Anarchist and the Nihilist to a lower deep." Transmute the doctrine into the rule of the law, and the disposition to be of the needy would be irresistible.

Mr. George supposes the case of but one man in the world, and concludes he could have no more wealth than he made and saved. In fact, he would have no wealth at all, because he could exchange nothing; so value in use is not always the creation of labor. Mr. Scudder puts this case: "Let a mechanic, to test the dogma that value is created by labor, 'make no contract for his remuneration before completing his work. Let him make whatever he chooses, and call on the world to come and buy his product at a price fixed by the amount of labor he has expended upon it.' Will his appeal bring customers? Will he not find that his ability to exchange the article which he has made for money, or anything else, depends solely upon its adaptability to the wants of some one, and not at all upon the labor which he has expended upon it?" Labor, then, is not the sole factor in production, but nature is an equal one. The factor, then, that may be applied to the natural condition of the thing for its improvement or modification, is itself a thing to be bought and sold. Colins, the Belgian socialist, having proposed this problem, "a naked man and a planet," to show that all wealth is the creation of labor, Scudder solves it thus: "If the planet is as naked as the man, the solution would be a dead man and a planet."

The best, and what we deem indisputable, definition of production, is formulated by De Laveleye, "nature, labor and capital." Thus, the agriculturist's arms are labor, the soil nature, the implements used and manures applied, capital; the first two produce and create the latter. And this simple illustration clearly demonstrates the natural harmonious relations between labor and capital, and which are only disturbed by such fallacious doctrines as Mr. George advances, and the shortsightedness of some men who believe the order of nature can be reversed or broken up with benefit.

Mr. Edward Atkinson, a modern essayist, whose reasoning has commanded uni-

versal respect, follows the French political economist, changing only the order of statement, and giving land, capital and labor as the three factors of production, and which, when in hearty co-operation, always keep starvation one year distant. This writer flatly pronounces George's premises to be without foundation and his conclusions without warrant, and adopts and proves Bastiat's statement to be true, that in proportion to the increase of capital, the absolute share (of the product) falling to capital is augmented, but the relative share is diminished, while the relative share of labor is increased both absolutely and relatively." This same writer shows by irrefutable statistics that no people gain their bread by so little exertion of human labor as the people of this country, and that the wage rate increases.

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AN IMPORTANT STEP IN LEGISLATION.

Two bills have been introduced in the Legislature providing for the establishment of Boys' Reform School. The text of these bills we have not yet examined, but whatever they may be they open the way to needed action which it is to be hoped will be taken, but with great caution. No such measure should be adopted until the whole subject has been intelligently presented to the Legislature. Fortunately this can be done with comparative ease. The literature of the subject is copious, and it has all been gone over and digested by the Penological Commission. An active committee can readily grasp all the testimony on the subject in a fortnight of time, for the experience of other States and countries has all been placed of record. The consideration of recent essays upon these topics might be extended almost indefinitely; the sum of the reading of the literature of the subject shows seven-tenths of it to antagonize Henry George, and all of it to strip him of the claim of originality for his utopian and fallacious, not to say absurd, theories.

AN IMPROBABLE STORY.

It is simply impossible to believe that it is seriously contemplated by any legislators to carry the tyranny of the caucus into matters of general legislation. Political bosses, rumor has it, have conceived such a scheme, and by control of a majority of a party caucuses, hope to hold legislation by the throat, and be enabled to trade at will upon any measure from which the slightest possible "bodle" can be squeezed. If it is for a moment conceded that even fourteen legislators will sell their souls to any such infamous scheme, it will amount to this, that fourteen men propose to command the entire legislation of the State, and thus utterly destroy for one session of the Legislature the representative principle. Such a conspiracy would be against public policy, and as its practical working would be early manifest, the power of the law could be invoked for exposition of the scheme and its due punishment. It would amount to nothing more or less than bribery, and thus be amenable to penal laws. But if fourteen men should consent to carry out such fraud, can the belief be entertained for a moment that the remaining members of the caucus would consent to be bound by its rules, and thus passively play into the hands of the conspirators? To assume that they would, is to brand the entire twenty-six as unscrupulous and dishonest. Now we know some of these gentlemen—a portion of whom have openly denounced the rumored scheme—whose votes rumor has it are to be thus put upon the market by their quiescence, and we have faith enough in them to refuse to entertain even the suspicion that under the party, or any other whip, they would become plastic agents in the hands of boodle-ringers. The same faith we are prepared to extend to the cases of all others until it shall develop that it is misplaced. We refuse to believe, therefore, that the story as it goes has any basis of truth, save in the speculations of certain outside schemers, who may be using the rumor for the purpose of inducing other ultra-left ends.

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AN IMPORTANT

DAILY RECORD-UNION

SATURDAY.....JANUARY 15, 1887

ADVERTISEMENT MENTION.

Clarie Opera House—Aimee, January 19th. Metropolitan Theater—Emma Abbott, January 24th. Exempt Firemen's annual election. Annual ball of the Fire Assembly, K of L. Baseball to-morrow.

Auction Sale.

By Bell & Co.—This morning.
Business Advertisements.
Red House—Our Saturday's sale.
China Hall—Our Saturday's sale.
Weinstock & Lubin—As to silk.
A. C. S., 915 K street—Sugars.
Household Remedies—Castile Remedies Co., Wanton Hall—As to cheese.
Ladies' French kid shoes at O'Brien's.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Kindergarten for the Orphans.

A very praiseworthy movement is in progress to establish and maintain a kindergarten at the Protestant Orphan Asylum in this city, for the children under the age of those now attending the school for the orphans which is maintained upon the asylum grounds by the city.

Mrs. F. W. Frati and Mrs. Dr. Clayton started the movement and have charge of the enterprise, and are meeting with hearty endorsement and excellent success.

The plan is to build a school building four feet to a level of the same floor of the Orphan Asylum, and finish underneath a pleasant school-room, about ten feet in the clear, and 25 by 62 feet in area. The work of raising the building was commenced yesterday. The room will be nicely finished, the wood work grained, with white and gold painted.

The cost of the improvement will be a little over \$1,000. The amount necessary to pay for it is being obtained by the ladies named in subscriptions received from our citizens who are friendly disposed to the good work. About \$700 has already been received, and it is to be hoped that there will be no difficulty in obtaining the remainder of the amount.

There are, upon an average, about forty-five children in the orphanage too young to attend the school heretofore provided for the inmates, and who will be directly benefited by the improvement in progress in the building. The improvement is constructed for this use will also afford a place for the children outside of school hours, a thing which is sadly needed, when the weather is not suitable for playing out of doors. In this manner it will greatly facilitate caring for the numerous family of little ones by those having charge, as the room will be convenient, and also warmed for school purposes.

A lecture in aid of the work will soon be given here by Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper of San Francisco, who is so well and prominently known as President of the Golden Gate Kindergarten Association.

Clarie Opera House.

Aimee, the vivacious, mirth-provoking and suggestive—"the only Aimee," in fact—is announced to appear at the Clarie Opera House next Wednesday and Thursday evenings, presenting "Man's wife" and "Divorces." She will be well supported, and the comedies will therefore be rendered attractively aside from the life put into them by the spirited little actress in character. The Brooklyn "Eagle" of a recent date refers to Aimee and "Mamie" as follows: "Mamie's" farcical comedy constructed for Mlle. Marie Aimee by Messrs. Jessop and Gill, is meeting with attentive hearing at the Park Theatre. As a vehicle for the display of the abilities of an artist the comedy recommends itself to popularity, and is a good comedy."

The bright, merry, piquant and charming Frenchwoman renews an Toineau Jacot, a little French milliner, and as Fleur de Lis, the songbird of two continents, the triumphs of every art that she has acknowledged. In the other opera house stage, her art is beyond cavil, her humor is impeccable, her laugh infectious, and her singing, while it discloses only the reminiscence of a once glorious voice, conveys to the hearers a realization of what may be accomplished by means of intelligence and the possession of perfect method. Mamie's art is naturally familiar to this public, to require no further allusion. In the impersonation of its title character Mlle. Aimee fairly reveals; she is the ideal comedienne."

New Formations.

The following explanation by Sergeant Barwick of dew formation shows what a difference there is in the temperature of the air near the surface and what it is several feet above, which cause was visible a few days ago, when there were several killing frosts and ice formed, while the Signal Service set up a thermometer which only recorded 39°, 15° above the freezing point. Now 15° lower than that would give 18°, which, in all probability is somewhere near the point the thermometer reached during the two or three cold mornings a few days ago. Professor Henry E. Alvord, after several hundred observations, while he was engaged in the study of the formation of dew, viz.: "That on clear nights the temperature of the air four inches above the ground is lower than four feet above by about 10° or 15°, and the soil three inches below the surface is always higher than the surface itself. The soil particles conduct heat away, and most of the moisture seen on plants in the morning is transpired by the plants themselves. Soil moisture supplies a large portion of the dew."

OLIVE BRANCH SOCIETY.—On Wednesday evening at Pioneer Hall, the officers of the Olive Branch Ladies' Society were installed by Past President Mrs. Emma Morehouse, as follows: President, Mrs. Sarah Green; Vice-President, Mrs. Amelia Stover; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Lucy Knox; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Clara May; Financial Secretary, Mrs. Anna Gill; Chaplain, Mrs. Augusta Hatch; Warden, Mrs. Minnie Labhard; Conductor, Mrs. May Toddthorn; Guard, Mrs. Emma Campbell; Treasurer, Mrs. Emma Morehouse; Mrs. Clara Fournier, Dr. Mary Magill. At the conclusion of the installation a short entertainment was called for and given as follows: Piano solos, Mrs. G. H. Stubbs and Miss May Walker; Recitations by Masters Alfred Labhard and Willis Mead. After which refreshments were served to a large number of visitors as well as members.

The largest stock of pianos and organs, by more than double, at Cooper's music store, Mathushek is the piano manufacturer, with whom we have a large stock in bushel. Silver medal, Mechanical Fair, 1886, and double the number first premiums of any one make at State Fairs since 1879, inclusive. Ten sold to one of them other make. John F. Cooper.

MONDAY morning our sale on black rhadames and black gros grain silk will take place. If you are thinking of getting one, it will be better to pay your visit for our sale. Clarie & Kiley, corner K and Eighth streets, Sacramento, California.

Just RECEIVED—Two thousand gallons Sonoma claret, six years old; equal to the finest French wine. To be obtained in quantities to suit from Geo. W. Chesley.

To-day our special Saturday's sale—a host of rare values. See our new advertisement. Red House.

DANVERS' samples on sale to-day. Handkerchiefs, gloves, linen and lace, frills, hose, corsets, etc. Red House.

Sale of millinery goods to-day—a clean out on every article. Red House.

BROKEN candy, 10 cents per pound, at Barron & Bell's Candy Kitchen, 810 J street.

TO-DAY our special Saturday's sale—a host of rare values. See our new advertisement. Red House.

CHICKENING & Sons' Pianos are acknowledged to be the best solid iron frame and patent repeating action. L. K. Hammer, sole agent, No. 220 J street.

NOTICE.—City License and Water Rates now due. Pay on or before the 15th instant and save costs.

"MATHUSHEK" PIANOS are the best on every point. John F. Cooper, agent.

A SEWER SYSTEM.

Another New Method of Collecting Sewage—Suggested Plans for Cities.

C. E. Grunsky, civil engineer, of Sacramento, has invented and received letters patent for a new system of sewerizing cities and towns. Mr. Grunsky is a well-known citizen, connected with the State Engineering Department, and has given several years of study to methods employed and the defects in present systems. Progress in sanitary works relating to the collection and disposal of sewage is marked by a tendency to classify more thoroughly the material to be handled, and to provide for each kind a separate system of disposal, as in the case of water closets, urinals, etc. Concerning this subject Mr. Grunsky says:

"In the last few years the discharge of sewage matter into streams flowing through populated districts is meeting with such decided opposition that it will not be long before provision must be made to dispose of it in some other way. It is safe to predict that the various methods employed to destroy its offensiveness, or utilize it none will find such general favor as its use for irrigation and fertilization. So long as no objection is feared from interested parties the simplest and most convenient method of disposal is undoubtedly to deliver it into flowing streams."

Wherever the offensive waste, house drainage, etc., cannot be disposed of in the same way as rain water it ought to be collected apart from the latter. This is essential to reduce the quantity of material to be disposed of, and especially if specially treated and led into the introduction of separate systems of sewers for sewage, rain water, and for rain water.

The cost of the improvement will be a little over \$1,000. The amount necessary to pay for it is being obtained by the ladies named in subscriptions received from our citizens who are friendly disposed to the good work. About \$700 has already been received. The money will be used to purchase the services of an architect before it is permitted to enter the sewer system.

"When a city is located on very level ground it may be found desirable particularly from the standpoint of economy, to collect the delivery of sewage, rain water, etc., into a single pipe. The tendency of modern improvements is toward a strict enforcement of the separate system. City authorities may some day find it necessary even to compel a special treatment of the sewer system before it is permitted to enter the sewer system."

What the Young Men Are Doing.

The monthly business meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association was held last evening. The spacious reading-room was crowded with young men. President C. M. Campbell presided, and the reports presented by the chairmen of the various committees showed the Association to be in a flourishing condition. The following committees reported: Devotional, Social and Literary, C. A. Mayfield, application, W. M. Hart, visitation of the sick, F. G. Taylor, gymnasium, P. J. Kennedy, membership, W. B. Maydew.

A resolution was unanimously passed changing the close of the Association year from January 20th to September 30th. C. H. Davis, president, reported that arrangements had been made to appoint a committee on nominations for officers for the ensuing year.

The subject of a permanent building was then brought up and after short talk from several young men, a subscription list was opened and pledges made to the extent of \$200. These subscriptions were mostly in small amounts, but the total sum is considerable. The Association is to meet at the Superior Court on January 21st.

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SALLY JONES AND I.

HOW WE WERE BILKED OUT OF A CHRISTMAS DINNER.

A Mourful Story of Pioneer Life in the Gold Mines of Central California.

It was on Christmas eve in the year 1851—that I sat alone in my log cabin, built upon a little eminence overlooking Snake Hollow Flat, in Drytown, Amador county, California.

For two years I had subsisted principally upon Chile beans, flapjacks and coffee, with an occasional bit of fresh Spanish beef thrown in as a relish.

I was strong and healthy then, full of romance and enthusiasm, and blessed with that voracious appetite which comes only to vigorous youth, in the heyday of life's beautiful morning, and at the period in question yearned for one of those gastronomic miracles, a New England Christmas dinner.

But should I get it or where, in fact, any better than by my regular rations on the coming morn? And thus ruminating, half asleep and half adream, memory took me back, in fond remembrance, to the dear sweet home I had left but two years and eight months before.

Suddenly, awoke from my delightful reverie, and finding before me Lou and Jake Walker, accompanied by their partner, Jerry Whitehead.

"Blown, what were you dreaming about? Wake up! To-morrow will be Christmas Day, and we came over to give you a deal! We want a dinner, a good one, a splendid one, a real dinner; whisky straight to start them, then oysters, sardines, sardines, plum pudding, mince pies, and all the delicacies of the season to boot, thrown in as condiments. To come right down to business, you must get it up, and we propose to pay liberally for the job, and be after you again when we come to you, so dinner will cost you nothing, and a mighty good one it ought to be, as we propose, to pay you an ounce apiece."

Here was my chance, and I resolved to take it, promising to be ready the next day at 3 p.m., with a layout the very gods would envy, to keep awake until 2 o'clock, planning a bill of fare, and early next morning struck out for Burt's store, where I laid in a supply of canned oysters, turkeys, chickens, sardines, raisins, dried apples, cloves, cinnamon, beans and suet; and then, going over to Jack Worthy's, bought all his wife's spare dishes, spoons and knives, and sent word to Uncle Daniel Baxter's and got a gallon of No. 1 Kentucky whisky, and at last started home in high glee at the prospect of a splendid dinner, after having spent just \$48, or, as we used to say in those days, three ounces. I calculated I had a sufficient sum to lay out in incidentals, which were for five persons, and so concluded to invite Sally Jones, the belle of Drytown, daughter of old Sam Jones, who hailed from Buchanan township, Clay county, Missouri, to come over and partake of the festivities of the occasion.

I don't exactly know how I came to invite Sally, but the fact is, I was going to the wash to wash my shirt. I passed her mother, who was milking the old mooley cow, and wishing to say something besides "Good afternoon, Mrs. Jones," remarked that this was the way a man had to do in California, wash his own shirt, cook his dinner, mend his own pants, and make his own bed!

"Why don't you get married, young fool, and have a wife to do such work for you?" she replied, as she picked up her milking stool, and was about to start for the house. "How could I find a wife in this country? there are too many old men and women to one woman here for one moment thinking of Sally."

"Oh, you flax round, my son, and you won't have to go far; hear your Aunt Nancy Jones of old Buchanan, Clay county, Missouri, you do!"

Then I remembered how punctually Sally had been over to my cabin every evening to take her lesson upon the parsonage, how we had sung duets together, and how often I had desired to have her step to dinner, yet had not the heart to ask her to sit down to Chile beans, slapjacks and coffee straight; and so when Lon, Jake Walker and Jerry Whitehead came over that night and invited us to their three o'clock dinner, I sprang up a Christmas blowout. I saw my way clear to kill two birds with one stone, and, going to sleep at 2 o'clock, was soon dreaming of turkeys, chickens, mince and pumpkin pies, and that paragon of beauty, Sally Jones, the dear little, sweet little belle of Drytown, Amador county, and probably within a radius of fifty miles!

On my way back I called at the old people's cabin, and, finding Mrs. Jones within, asked if Sally could go over and have dinner with me, telling her what I was going to prepare, and how the two Walker brothers and Jerry Whitehead were to foot it, and that all I wanted to fill my cup of happiness was the brim was to have Sally go along and share the profits.

"Why, to be sure she can go, poor child. Do you know that critter never ate a Christmas dinner in all her life, and come to think it over, why not take her now to sort of help you out? She is a right smart chance of a cook, she is, and some day or other will make some man a right pert little fellow, and when you get her, your sun-bonnet and help. Block pack those do-gooders, and when you get there, pick the raisins, chop, the meat, set some salt rising, and make him a bread of pure dough. Sweep the cabin, do up the house, set the table, rights generally, and don't touch that accursed old dinner is over, and now git up and sit, both of you, for there is no time to lose; and you, Sally, be sure and make the place look cheerful!"

In less than no time we were on our way, as bad as we could be, past the blockheads cabin. He saw us peeping through a chink hole, and in slang parlance "smelt a rat," and hastily going over to Jake and Tom's told them my whole plan, which he understood as well as though I had told him.

To make a long story short, Sally and I got up a grand old meal, and at precisely 2 p.m. I unshod my door, to use for a table, standing it upon two empty whisky barrels, while she ran over home and took off one of the flour-sack sheets of her bed, from which to improvise a table cloth.

The door was short and narrow, and when we got it squared and fastened, we had only room to sit down, and so Sally waited upon them, while I dished up and did the carving.

First, the whisky went the way of all the earth (for men could drink in those days). Then followed the oyster soup, sardines and chicken. The three cans of turkey soup, just fine, made the meal. The little detached lever watch that Sally had brought all the way across the plains, that same year; and in five more but a quarter of mince pie out of six remained.

The pony of salt rising bread stood up gallantly, but finally, when I had cut off a slice, not a crumb remained, the three hungry devils declared they had bagged for a square meal, and simultaneously bringing their brawny fists down on the cabin door, swore by all the gods of war they were bound to have one; that I had taken the contract and must give them satisfaction or fight, no matter at what cost.

The whisky had made them wild, and I had no alternative but to send Sally down to Burt's for another invoice, while I myself struck out for the charpoy to gather sufficient fuel to cook the meal.

It so happened again in readiness, and our tormentors, after having swept the table clean, and ruined Sally's four-shank sheet, declared they had revenge, and sneeringly telling me I ought to have been in better luck than to draw from the earth. *Albany Journal.*

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GRAVEL MINING.

THE DEPOSITS IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE SIERRAS.

Where they are Located—How they are Worked—Yield of Gold—Extent—Etc.

The gravel-mining region proper of California is on the western slope and foothills of the Sierras, beginning with Mariposa county on the south, and extending north into Plumas. The importance of the gravel deposits increases as we go from Taolumne to Calaveras, and thence to Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada and Sierra. The great mining counties, and there is a gradual falling off in Butte and Plumas, where the mines are nearing exhaustion. This region of auriferous gravel is also traversed by numerous quartz veins. There seems to be an intimate connection between the metal gold and the mineral quartz. A large portion of the gold obtained throughout the world comes from the debris of such veins and rocks, formed by the operation of those eroding and disintegrating agencies which are and have been at work forever since rocks began to be formed. The geographical range of the gold is much more extensive than that of the quartz veins—at least of such as are productive.

Gold was discovered by Marshall at Coloma, in El Dorado county, January 19, 1848. The discovery was almost in the center of the great alluvial gravel deposit, in the most ordinary way, washed off sand and stones, and found to have been in excess of \$100,000. The water used in piping off this sugar loaf was brought several miles in iron pipes, crossing many ridges and deep depressions.

GOLD QUARTZ MINES.

Mining in auriferous quartz in California has been a field business, conferring large fortunes on a few, and inflicting serious losses on many. The majority of quartz veins have been worked out entirely, and the miners have turned to smaller quartz veins, which are more easily worked, and contain a good many quartz pebbles, but no large boulders, stones of more than 100 pounds weight being rarely found. Most of the pebbles which were not of quartz were thoroughly decomposed, and the mass of talcoid clay which they contained was not capable of being profitably worked, and the miners will not require any aid to keep the bowls in good order. The plan, however, requires a different mode of working, and the quartz veins have been cured by a single bottle, with a perfect restoration of the general health. It is, however, prudential to have a doctor on hand, and if its use is confined in smaller doses for a week or two after the disease has been checked, more especially if it is difficult to get a doctor, as the miners will not require any aid to keep the bowls in good order. The plan, however, requires a different mode of working, and the quartz veins have been cured by a single bottle, with a perfect restoration of the general health. It is, however, prudential to have a doctor on hand, and if its use is confined in smaller doses for a week or two after the disease has been checked, more especially if it is difficult to get a doctor, as the miners will not require any aid to keep the bowls in good order. The plan, however, requires a different mode of working, and the quartz veins have been cured by a single bottle, with a perfect restoration of the general health. 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